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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

8791

7590

10/02/2009

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040

EXAMINER

LE, MICHAEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/501,494

03/18/2005

Enrico Maim

15675P538

8268

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR SEARCHING AND ASSOCIATING INFORMATION RESOURCES SUCH AS WEB PAGES

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	01/04/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

8791 7590 10/02/2009

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY
SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/501,494	03/18/2005	Enrico Maim	15675P538	8268
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TITLE OF INVENTION: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR SEARCHING AND ASSOCIATING INFORMATION RESOURCES SUCH AS WEB PAGES

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nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	01/04/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
LE, MICHAEL	2163	707-204000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, _____ 1
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. _____ 2
 _____ 3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
 Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/501,494

Examiner

MICHAEL LE

Applicant(s)

MAIM, ENRICO

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the supplemental response filed July 7, 2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 53-64 and 71-74.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Wilson Lee/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2163

/Michael Le/
Examiner, Art Unit 2163

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George Hoover on September 25, 2009. Claims 1-27, 37-52, and 65-70 are cancelled per Applicant's request. Claims 53 and 73 has been amended as follows:

53. A method for managing information resources in a computer system for the purpose of resource retrieval, said resources including a first resource to be retrieved and a second resource obtained independently from said first resource and having a potential relevance relationship with other resources based on a relevance scoring process, the method comprising:

- a) receiving user information from a user input device, said user information being representative of a declaration that said first resource is associated with said second resource for the purpose of being later retrieved, and storing information relative to this declaration;
- b) when accessing said second resource by a user input device:
 - b1) displaying said second resource,

b2) based on said stored information, further displaying an indicator of the existence of said first resource,

c) when selecting for access an other resource:

c1) determining whether said other resource is relevant with respect to said second resource,

c2) displaying said other resource, and

c3) if step c1) has determined a relevance between said other resource and said second resource, based on said stored information, further displaying an indicator of the existence of said first resource,

d) retrieving said first resource utilizing said indicator displayed when accessing said second resource or said other resource, wherein said first resource is retrievable although it initially had no connection with the second resource.

73. The method as claimed in claim 72, wherein said user information received in said step a) is representative of a declaration that said first resource is associated with several second resources, all said second resources ~~being at a different time~~ obtained independently from said first resource.

Allowance

1. Claims 53-64 and 71-74 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. The instant invention is directed toward a method of retrieving a resource, such as a document, that has been associated with a second resource, such as a web page. By way of example, the instant invention allows a user to associate a document (i.e., a first resource) to a web site (i.e., a second resource). The association is stored. When the user accesses the web site after the association has been established, an indicator is displayed, allowing the user to retrieve the previously associated document. The distinct feature of the invention is its ability to extend this association to additional relevant resources. To continue the example above, if a user performs a web search for a topic similar to the contents of the document, as conventionally done, web site results relevant to the topic are returned ranked by their relevance. Here the previously associated web site is returned since it is about a similar topic as the document. In addition, other relevant websites are returned as well. If the user accesses a website that was not previously associated with the document (i.e., a third resource), based on the stored association and its (i.e., the third resource) determined relevance with the associated web site (i.e., the second resource), an indicator is displayed in the accessed web site indicating the existence of the document (i.e., the first resource). The user could then retrieve the document via the indicator.

4. As a result, the instant invention grants the user the advantage of retrieving a document or file simply by searching for resources of a similar topic as long as there is a defined association between the document and a second resource of a similar subject matter. Where this would be useful, is in situations where a user is unable to locate a particular document for any number of reasons, but remembers the subject matter of the document. By searching the subject matter, the

user can retrieve the original document via associated resources, as long as the initial association was defined.

5. The prior art, as discussed below, does not seem to have the features described above. While the prior art describes associating a first resource with another resource for subsequent retrieval, there does not seem to be an extension of this association to additional relevant resources like the instant invention. The closest prior art is as follows:

6. **Wolfe (US Patent 5,870,770)** discloses a document research system and method for displaying citing documents. In particular, Wolfe discloses when a user accesses a particular document, the citing documents are automatically displayed to the user simultaneously. These citing documents can be selected and viewed. Wolfe at abstract. While Wolfe discloses associations (i.e., citations) between documents (i.e., resources) that are manually created, Wolfe fails to disclose the specific scenario described above and claimed.

7. **Bascom et al. (US Patent 7,386,792)** discloses a system and method for collecting, storing, managing and providing categorized information related to a document object. In particular, Bascom discloses the ability for a user to link various documents together (i.e., create an association relationship) that is stored and subsequently used for retrieval of documents. Bascom at abstract. Bascom, however, fails to disclose that a particular document can be retrieved simply by searching for the document's subject matter and reviewing a relevant document that was not directly associated with the original document, like the instant invention.

8. **Emens et al. (US Patent 6,832,218)** discloses associating search results to enable users the advantage of using another user's time and energy of filtering search results to determine

relevant results. Emens at abstract. While Emens discloses associations between web pages, Emens fails to disclose the specific features described above and claimed.

9. Takano et al. (US Patent Pub 2002/0099685) discloses a document retrieval system and method in accordance with a search server. Takano discloses an associative document search type database that is used to determine associated terminology that is used to perform a search and retrieve documents. Takano at abstract. These associations, however, are not user defined and the retrieval of documents is in direct relevance to the query being issued. This is different from the instant invention, where the retrieved document is through an indicator shown on a resource that is relevant to the subject matter of the retrieved document.

10. Rooke (US Patent Pub 2002/0065673) discloses a system that allows users to annotate documents thereby activating a document. The system then performs a query to find similar documents to the active document. The similar documents have the annotation added to them allowing for subsequent search by annotation subject matter. Rooke at para. 0055. Rooke is similar to the instant invention in that a user creates an association with an initial resource (i.e., the active document). Where Rooke differs is that similar documents to the active document are also associated with the annotation, whereas the instant invention would simply determine the association based on the relevancy relationships and the single stored association between the first and second resource (i.e., the annotation and active document in Rooke).

11. Schilit et al. (US Patent 6,658,623) discloses a method for displaying a document as a link in a second document based on a passive query. Schilit discloses analyzing a current document to generate a query that is passively executed to retrieve related documents that are

accessible through links. Schilit at abstract. Schilit, however, does not disclose the features as described above and as claimed.

12. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7970. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs : 9:30am-6pm, Fri: 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Wilson Lee/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2163
9-28-09

/Michael Le/
Examiner, Art Unit 2163